

Adams County Public Library



Milestones

- 1896 Peebles Magazine Club was organized for the purpose of placing good magazines in the homes of its twelve members.
- 1909 Manchester Sunday School Association opened a Reading Room that was supported through donations, memberships, and Lecture Course fees. The Association established a Library Committee and contacted the State Library of Ohio for a “Traveling Library.”
- 1910 Manchester Library Association assumed control of the Reading Room.
- 1912 Manchester Library moved to the second floor of Farmer’s National Bank Building. The library rented one room for \$5 per month and later moved across the hall into larger quarters.
- 1918 Manchester Village Council levied a tax for the support of the Manchester Library. The first proceeds were \$125.
- 1927 Manchester Library was reorganized under Ohio law as Manchester School District Public Library. As the new taxing and appointing authority for the library, the Manchester School Board levied a one-quarter-mill tax that produced \$300 for support of the library.
- 1931 A new Ohio law provided for support of public libraries through a county intangibles tax.
- 1931 Peebles Free Public Library was organized under Ohio law with the Peebles Local School Board as the taxing and appointing authority. The Peebles Magazine Club provided additional financial support.
- 1932 Manchester Masonic Lodge provided free library space for the Manchester Library.
- 1945 G. F. Thomas deeded a building and ground on Main Street to the Peebles Magazine Club for use of the Peebles Free Public Library.
- 1956 Manchester Public Library moved to a room at the Hotel Hester.
- 1958 Manchester Public Library joined Peebles Public Library and the State Library of Ohio in providing bookmobile service to all areas of the county.
- 1964 The family of Mrs. James A. Fitch deeded property at 157 High Street to the Peebles Magazine Club for library use.
- 1967 Peebles Magazine Club constructed a library building (approx. 2,000 sq. ft.) at 157 High Street.
- 1971 Manchester Public Library moved to the Manchester Municipal Building.
- 1971 Due to the consolidation of all school districts within Adams County, Manchester Public Library and Peebles Public Library were consolidated as the Ohio Valley District Free Public Library under the taxing and appointing authority of Ohio Valley Local School Board.
- 1986 Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF) replaced the county intangibles tax for the support of public libraries. LLGSF came from 6.2% of the Ohio Income Tax.
- 1987 Peebles Magazine Club constructed an addition (approx. 2,000 sq. ft.) to the rear of the library building that doubled the size of the Peebles Library.
- 1989 West Union Friends of the Library organized and opened a library at 733 Elm Street.
- 1990 Manchester Library moved to a new building at 401 Pike Street, its first permanent home which was built by the Ohio Valley District Free Public Library and donations from the Manchester Woman’s Club.

- 1990 West Union Library became part of the Ohio Valley District Free Public Library system.
- 1991 Peebles Magazine Club deeded the Peebles Free Public Library building to the Ohio Valley District Free Public Library.
- 1992 North Adams Friends of the Library organized and opened a library in the Seaman Community Center.
- 1995 The Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF) was reduced to 5.7% of the Ohio Income Tax.
- 1996 The Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) began providing Internet access to the Adams County libraries.
- 1997 The library district name was changed from Ohio Valley District Free Public Library to Adams County Public Libraries.
- 1997 West Union Library moved to a new building at 212 East Sparks Street built by the Adams County Public Libraries and donations from the West Union Friends of the Library.
- 1999 The library catalog and circulation functions were automated with the assistance of the State Library of Ohio. The library became a member of the SEO/Dynix Consortium.
- 1999 The library district name was changed to Adams County Public Library.
- 1999 Adams County Public Library began U. S. Cargo service for interlibrary loan (ILL) shipments, permitting resource sharing among the local libraries as well as other Ohio libraries.
- 2000 The Adams County Public Library completed a renovation and addition to the original Peebles Library building that had been donated by the Peebles Magazine Club in 1991.
- 2000 North Adams Library became a part of the Adams County Public Library system.
- 2001 State Library of Ohio ended Southwest Ohio Bookmobile services to Adams County.
- 2002 State funding decreased significantly, followed by a series of reductions and freezes that lasted through 2008.
- 2004 State Library of Ohio began Know-it-Now, a 24-7 online service, providing reference service, homework help, and readers' advisory.
- 2007 Library staff initiated a process of restructuring with the primary focus on direct service to library patrons through public service teams. Other functions such as collection development, technical services, and information technology were centralized.
- 2008 The Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF) was renamed the Public Library Fund with revenue being generated from 2.2% of the Ohio general tax revenue. However, the total revenue did not increase.
- 2008 Adams County Public Library purchased property for a North Adams Public Library building on Moores Road adjacent to the North Adams High School.
- 2008 The Adams County Public Library completed a children's addition to the Manchester Public Library and local staff reorganized other services within the existing building.
- 2009 State funding was again reduced significantly as a result of the national economic recession.
- 2010 State Library of Ohio approved the formation of Adams County Public Library as a county district library under the taxing authority of Adams County Board of Commissioners, with four library board members being appointed by the commissioners and three library board members being appointed by the Judge of the Common Pleas Court.
- 2010 By 2010 state funding had decreased over a ten-year period by almost 30%, necessitating staff reductions through attrition. As a result, all libraries in the Adams County system were forced to close one day each week.